

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

OR,

Political, Commercial, and Literary Gazette.

Vol. IV.]

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 1819.

[No. 138.]

Published Daily, with the exception of Mondays,—and accompanied with occasional Engravings, illustrative of Antiquities, Science, and the Arts,—at a Subscription price of Eight Rupees per Month, and Half a Rupee for each Plate issued.

Classical and Antiquarian.

Mr. Cavaglia's Discoveries in Egypt, at the Great Pyramid of Gizeh, and the celebrated Colossal Sphinx.

In the last Number of the Quarterly Review that has reached this country, the 38th, there is a long and interesting article on the Antiquities of Egypt, in a Review on one of the Papers published in Walpole's Memoirs, entitled "Observations relating to some of the Antiquities of Egypt, from Papers of the late Mr. Davison."

Our limits will not admit of transcribing the whole of this article, though there is no portion of it that is not both valuable and interesting. We must content ourselves therefore with giving that portion of it which relates to the discoveries of Mr. Cavaglia, as they are perfectly new, and in our estimation quite eclipse those of Mr. Belzoni.

After four pages devoted to Mr. Davison, who was British Consul at Algiers in 1763, and accompanied the celebrated Wortley Montague to Egypt, where he resided for about 18 months, having his permanent abode at Cairo, but making frequent excursions to the Pyramids and surrounding monuments, the Reviewer says—

"This brief account of Mr. Davison's discoveries will enable us to appreciate the labours of another enterprising traveller, of whose extraordinary exertions, courage, and perseverance, and the brilliant discoveries to which they led, we have been favoured with a very interesting account, drawn up roughly by our consul-general, Mr. Salt, by whose zeal, personal exertions, influence with the Pasha, and great pecuniary liberality, many of the hidden treasures of Egypt have been brought to light; some of which have already found their way, and others are following, to that magnificent depository of nature and art, the British Museum.

The person to whom we allude is Mr. Cavaglia, the master, and, we believe, owner of a mercantile vessel in the Mediterranean trade, 'who,' Mr. Salt informs us, 'was most actively employed, for a period of nearly six months, in carrying on his researches with a disinterested zeal that merits general admiration, and will ensure him the gratitude of all who take pleasure in the studies of the antiquarian.' In tracing the progress of those researches, we cannot do better than adhere as closely to the words of Mr. Salt as our necessarily abridged narrative will admit.

Mr. Cavaglia (who is described as a gentleman with whose amiable character is blended an ardent enthusiasm for such pursuits) had long entertained an opinion that, among the antiquities so justly celebrated in Egypt, much yet remained to be explored that might throw a light upon the peculiar rites and usages of its ancient inhabitants; and as nothing had excited his attention more than the stupendous pyramids of Gizeh, he had determined, whenever the opportunity occurred, to exert his utmost efforts in clearing up the mystery which still hangs over the real intention of the numerous passages and the interior chambers of those venerable structures. With this determination he set out from Alexandria for Cairo, where he arrived on the 26th December, 1816, and immediately entered into an arrangement with two gentlemen of the names of Kabitzet and La Fuentes, in consequence of which they were to accompany him, with ropes and other necessary apparatus, to the grand pyramid; this they accordingly did on the 8th January following.

The first object which Mr. Cavaglia had in view was to examine the 'Well' in the chamber of the great pyramid, the descent of which, as it would seem, both he and Mr. Salt considered as an enterprize never yet accomplished;—that Well (it is Mr. Salt who

speaks) 'which had so long baffled all research, and respecting which various rumours had been propagated of persons having been let down at different times, who had returned to explain the mystery in which it was enveloped, a circumstance that had deterred many others from what was so generally considered as a desperate attempt.

Mr. Cavaglia, on reaching the chamber into which the mouth opens, fixed a rope round his waist, and, with a lamp in his hand, immediately began to descend, his friends remaining above to secure the rope. He describes the several shafts of this Well pretty nearly in the same terms as Mr. Davison; and he met with the same difficulty in persuading an Arab to go down and assist him in the removal of several stones of granite which had choked up the second shaft. The only novelty which we perceive, is the fact of the shaft being lined with masonry above and below the grotto, to support, as was supposed, one of those insulated beds of gravel which are frequently found in rock, and which the masons call *flaws*. There was no difficulty in reaching the bottom; but the heat was found to be excessive, the air very impure; and the lamp soon began to burn with a faint and glimmering light. Finding nothing there but a collection of loose stones and rubbish, he hastened to return to his companions, but had scarcely time to reach the grotto, when all the lamps went out in rapid succession;—a circumstance that occasioned considerable alarm, and obliged the whole party to make a precipitate retreat.

On their arrival at Cairo, Mr. Salt says, they were overwhelmed with congratulations from those who had blamed their rashness and predicted their failure: 'those,' he adds, 'who have visited the pyramids and have seen the stoutest men faint in getting up even to the gallery, who have experienced the enervating effect of the foul air in these subterranean channels, and have heard the various histories current at Cairo of persons supposed to have formerly perished in the attempt, will know how to appreciate the firmness of nerve, undoubted resolution, and admirable presence of mind displayed through this adventure; the rare union of which could alone have brought it to a successful termination.'

Mr. Cavaglia, however, was by no means satisfied with the result of this supposed first discovery of the bottom of the Well; but from the circumstance of the ground giving a hollow sound under his feet, he was satisfied that there must be some concealed outlet. With the view of making further discovery, he pitched his tent in front of the entrance of the great pyramid, determined to set about excavating the bottom of the Well. He hired some Arabs to draw up the rubbish with baskets and cords; but from the extreme reluctance of these people to work, notwithstanding the enormous wages given to them, he was compelled to suspend his operations and give up the enterprize, till an order from the Kiaya-bey had been procured, which had the effect of subduing their indolence, and, to a certain degree, of removing their prejudices.

'It is still,' says Mr. Salt, 'almost inconceivable how he could so far surmount the prejudices of these people, as to induce them to work in so confined a space, where a light, after the first half hour, would not burn, and where, consequently, every thing was to be done by feeling and not by sight; the heat at the same time being so intense and the air so suffocating, that in spite of all precautions, it was not possible to stay below an hour at a time without suffering from its pernicious effects. At length, indeed, it became so intolerable that one Arab was brought up nearly dead, and several others, on their ascending, fainted away; so that at last, in spite of the command laid upon them, they almost entirely abandoned their labour, declaring that they were willing to work but not to die for him.'

Thus discouraged, Mr. Caviglia next turned his attention to the clearing of the principal entrance or passage of the pyramid, which, from time immemorial, had been so blocked up as to oblige those who entered, to creep on their hands and knees; hoping by this to give a free passage to the air. He not only succeeded in carrying his purpose into effect, but in the course of his labours, made the unexpected discovery that the main passage, leading from the entrance, did not terminate in the manner asserted by Maillet, but (having removed several large masses of calcareous stone and granite, apparently placed there to obstruct the passage) that it still continued in the same inclined angle downwards, was of the same dimensions, and had its sides worked with the same care, as in the channel above, though filled up nearly to the top with earth and fragments of stone. Having proceeded to the length of 150 feet in clearing out this passage, the air began to be so impure, and the heat so suffocating, that he had the same difficulties again to encounter with regard to the working Arabs. Even his own health was at this time visibly impaired, and he was attacked with a spitting of blood; nothing, however, could induce him to desist from his researches.

By the 14th March he had excavated as low down as 200 feet in the new passage without any thing particular occurring, when shortly afterwards a doorway on the right side was discovered, from which, in the course of a few hours, a strong smell of sulphur was perceived to issue. Mr. Caviglia having now recollected that when at the bottom of the Well, in his first enterprize, he had burned some sulphur for the purpose of purifying the air, conceived it probable that this doorway might communicate with it, an idea which, in a little time, he had the gratification of seeing realized, by discovering that the channel through the doorway opened at once upon the bottom of the Well, where he found the baskets, cords, and other implements which had been left there on his recent attempt at a further excavation. This discovery was so far valuable, as it afforded a complete circulation of air along the new passage, and up the shaft of the Well into the chamber, so as to obviate all danger for the future from the impurity of the atmosphere. Mr. Salt, after this, made the tour of the long passage, and up the shafts into the great gallery, without much inconvenience.

It will be seen, on referring to our Thirty-third Number, that our notions respecting this Well were tolerably correct, though we could not at that time exactly appreciate the accuracy of Dr. Clarke's experiment of throwing down the stone, nor the validity of his reasoning upon it. We have now the means of estimating the value of both; and they must be allowed to form a very curious instance of the force of imagination bolstering itself up on ancient authority. This ingenious traveller says, 'We threw down some stones, and observed that they rested at about the depth which Greaves has mentioned (twenty feet); but being at length provided with a stone nearly as large as the mouth of the Well, and about fifty pounds in weight, we let this fall, listening attentively to the result from the spot where the other stones rested. We were agreeably surprised by hearing, after a length of time which must have equalled some seconds, a loud and distinct report, seeming to come from a spacious subterranean apartment, accompanied by a splashing noise as if the stone had been broken into pieces, and had fallen into a reservoir of water at an amazing depth.' 'Thus,' continues the Doctor, 'does experience always tend to confirm the accounts left us by the ancients! for this exactly answers to the description given by Pliny of this Well.' Now it is quite obvious, from Messrs. Davison and Caviglia's better 'experience,' that Dr. Clarke's 'large stone' could not, by any possibility, travel an inch beyond the bottom of the first shaft, or about twenty feet; unless we are to suppose that, on reaching the first bottom, it took a horizontal roll due south eight feet, dropped down the second shaft of five feet, then took a second roll of about five feet, and finally tumbled down the third shaft; but even thus, there would be no 'splashing,' though 'the inundation of the Nile was nearly at its height,' as a new chamber, discovered by Caviglia, which is even lower than the bottom of the Well, is stated to be thirty feet above the level of the Nile at its greatest elevation. Of this chamber we have now to give some account.

The new passage did not terminate at the doorway which opened upon the bottom of the Well. Continuing to the distance of twenty-three feet beyond it, in the same angle of inclination, it became narrower, and took a horizontal direction for about twenty-eight feet farther, where it opened into a spacious chamber, immediately under the central point of the pyramid.

This new chamber is sixty-six feet long by twenty-seven feet broad, with a flat roof, and, when first discovered, was nearly filled

with loose stones and rubbish, which, with considerable labour, Mr. Caviglia removed. The platform of the floor, dug out of the rock, is irregular, nearly one half of the length from the eastern or entrance end being level, and about fifteen feet from the ceiling; while in the middle it descends five feet lower, in which part there is a hollow space bearing all the appearance of the commencement of a well or shaft. From hence it rises to the western end, so that at this extremity there is scarcely room between the floor and the ceiling to stand upright, the whole chamber having the appearance of an unfinished excavation; though Mr. Salt thinks, after a careful comparison of it with other subterranean chambers which have been disfigured by the combined effects of time and the rude hands of curious inquirers, that it may once have been highly wrought, and used, perhaps, for the performance of solemn and secret mysteries. Some Roman characters, rudely formed, had been marked with the flame of a candle on the rock, part of which having mouldered away, rendered the words illegible. Mr. Salt says, he had flattered himself that this chamber would turn out to be that described by Herodotus as containing the tomb of Cheops, which was insulated by a canal from the Nile; but the want of an inlet, and its elevation of thirty feet above the level of the Nile at its highest point, put an end to this delusive idea. He thinks, however, from an expression of Strabo, purporting that the passage from the entrance leads directly down to the chamber which contained the receptacle of the dead, that this new chamber was the only one known to that author. Whatever might have been the intention of this deeply excavated chamber, no vestige of a sarcophagus could now be traced. 'It was left for a Mussulman,' says Mr. Salt, 'to discover the real sanctuary and to despoil the tombs of their contents. Al Mamoun, the son of Haroun al Raschid, promoted by the treasure-searching spirit of the age, effected this laborious undertaking, which, though not so arduous as it is described to have been by Maillet, might well defy any efforts but those of a sovereign enthusiast in the pursuit.' To Dr. Clarke, who in defiance of numerous authorities, affects to consider the researches of the early Arabs within the pyramids as a legendary tale, we recommend the perusal of the Arabic inscription found by Belzoni in the chamber of the pyramid of Cephrenes.

On the south side of this irregularly formed or unfinished chamber, is an excavated passage, just wide and high enough for a man to creep along on his hands and knees, continuing horizontally in the rock for fifty-five feet—where it abruptly terminates. Another passage at the east end of the chamber commences with a kind of arch, and runs about forty feet into the solid body of the pyramid. Mr. Salt alludes to some other passage noticed by Olivier, in which the names of 'Paisley' and 'Munro' were now found inscribed at its extremity.

The next enterprize of Mr. Caviglia was to examine the chamber first discovered by Mr. Davison, which he effected from the great gallery by means of a rope-ladder. The discovery being noticed in our manuscript memoir, as mentioned only by the travellers Niebuhr and Bruce, proves, as we suspected, that Mr. Salt had not seen Mr. Walpole's late publication. The sides and roof of this chamber are described as being coated with red granite of the finest polish; and Caviglia ascertained that the unevenness of the floor was occasioned by its being formed of the individual blocks of granite which constituted the roof of the chamber below; they must therefore be wedged in on the principle of the arch. Mr. Davison mentions the same thing; and the bats' dung of a foot deep, with which the floor was in his time covered, was now increased to eighteen inches.

The laborious exertions of Mr. Caviglia in cleaning out these channels and chambers and passages, do not appear to have been rewarded with any new discovery of antiquities; nor does he seem to think that any new light has been thrown on the long contested question, as to the original intention of those stupendous fabrics. That the main object was to cover the remains of their projectors, or of the priests, or both, there seems to be no reasonable grounds to doubt; and we trust, that before the contents of the sarcophagus, recently discovered in the pyramid of Cephrenes, shall be dispersed and lost, the fact will be ascertained whether the bones of a human subject have not been mixed with those of a cow. Neither can we doubt that many other secret passages and chambers yet remain to be discovered in those gloomy mansions of mystery and wonder. The conjecture of Pauw is by no means improbable, that the Serapeum or temple of Serapis, which Strabo places to the west of Memphis, is the central spot which protects and covers the grand entrance to all the numerous adits or galleries leading to the foundations of the pyramids of Gizeh; and, perhaps, to those of Saes

oara and Dashour, between which and the Delta, Memphis is reported by the ancients to have been situated, and its ruins recognized, near Metrahenny, by Pococke, Davison, and other modern travellers. In fact, it appears that the whole intermediate space between the borders of the late Moeris and Gizeh is so completely occupied by subterraneous catacombs, temples, pyramids, and mausoleums, as to render the supposition most probable of its being one vast cemetery, the centre of which was occupied by the celebrated city of Memphis; and that subterranean communications existed between the several edifices, from the pyramid of Cheops to the labyrinth with its three thousand chambers, one half of which being buried in the excavated rock, the Father of history was not permitted to visit. Mr. Caviglia has to a certain degree determined a long disputed point,—how far the living rock had been made an auxiliary in the construction of the pyramids. The rock, which shows itself externally at the north-eastern angle, appears in the main passage, and again close to the mouth of the well, the highest projection into the body of the pyramid being about eighty feet from the level of its external base.

But much more, we are fully persuaded, yet remains to be discovered within the pyramids. We have now the knowledge of three distinct chambers in that of Cheops, all of which had evidently been opened by the Saracens, (perhaps by the Romans, long before the arrival of the former in Egypt;) but for any thing that is known to the contrary, there may be three hundred, and might be ten times three hundred such chambers yet undiscovered. The magnitude of those stupendous masses makes no very striking impression on the mind from a mere contemplation of their dimensions in figures; and travellers mostly agree in their expressions of disappointment on first approaching them; being able with difficulty to persuade themselves of their vast bulk till some familiar object occurs to enable them to make the comparison. When we stated the pyramid of Cheops (supposing it solid throughout) to contain six times the mass of stone that will be contained in the great Breakwater across Plymouth sound, it was a comparison of one gigantic accumulation of materials with another somewhat less gigantic, and helped only to give a comparative view of the labour, and quantity of materials respectively consumed in these two great fabrics—but, to assist the mind to form a just idea of the immensity of the mass, let us take the great chamber of the sarcophagus, whose dimensions (it being about 35½ feet long, 17½ broad, and 18½ high*)—are those of a tolerably large sized drawing-room—which, as the solid contents of the pyramid are found to exceed 85,000,000 cubic feet, forms nearly 1-7402nd part of the whole; so that, after leaving the contents of every second chamber solid by way of separation, there might be three thousand seven hundred chambers, within the pyramid of Cheops. How little then do we yet know of the real state and disposition of the interior of this stupendous edifice!"

[Here follow five pages, which are occupied with the details of Mr. Caviglia's minute examination of the numerous ruined edifices and tumuli scattered in all directions around the pyramids.—Great admiration is bestowed on the beauty of the sculpture and painting in many of them; and Mr. Salt adds to this some cursory remarks on the specimens of both, which are valuable, as from the pen of an accomplished Artist, now long conversant with the antiquities of the country in which he resides. Some curious facts are mentioned also, as tending to confirm the opinion that some astronomical purpose was combined with all the old Egyptian monuments. But we pass these by, to hasten to something of still higher interest, which the Reviewer thus describes.]

"But by far the most brilliant of Mr. Caviglia's discoveries are owing to the laborious process of uncovering the great Androphinx in front of the pyramid of Cephrenes, in which, says Mr. Salt, 'he displayed an indefatigable perseverance that became the astonishment of every person who witnessed his labours.'†

It will not be necessary for us to enter into a minute detail of all the operations of Caviglia throughout this grand enterprise. It is sufficient to observe, on the difficulty of the undertaking, that in

* These are the measurements of Mr. Caviglia.

† We were led into a mistake in ascribing (in our last Number) the operation of uncovering the Sphinx to Belzoni—he had no concern in this enterprise. It is due also to Mrs. Belzoni (who we believe, is an English lady) to state that it was she who dug up the statue of Jupiter Ammon with the ram's head on his knee, during the absence of her husband in Nubia.—*Quarterly Reviewers.*

digging a very deep trench on the left, or northern side, near the shoulder, of about twenty feet wide at the top and three only at the base, it became dangerous to the workmen; and that, in spite of all their planking, the wind drove back at night more than half of the sand which they had cleared away in the day. By this trench, however, he ascertained that the external surface of the body below was composed of irregular shaped stones, built up with much care, and covered with red paint, (which at first seemed to militate against the assertion of Pococke, of its being cut out of the solid rock,) and that the joints mentioned by some authors were nothing more than veins in the stones. The masonry, however, seems to be confined to those projecting ledges which Mr. Salt thinks might be intended for the lines of the mantle, or dress, and that they were added by the Romans.

This first attempt not being satisfactory to Caviglia, he again set seriously to work directly in front; commencing in the early part of March, and continuing without interruption till the end of June. With the assistance of from sixty to a hundred persons every day, he succeeded in laying open the whole figure to its base, and exposing a clear area extending a hundred feet from its front. 'It is not easy,' says Mr. Salt, 'for any person unused to operations of this kind, to form the smallest idea of the difficulties which Captain Caviglia had to surmount, more particularly when working at the depth of the base; for, in spite of every precaution, the slightest breath of wind, or concussion, set all the surrounding particles of sand in motion, so that the sloping sides began to crumble away, and mass after mass to come tumbling down, till the whole surface bore no unapt resemblance to a cascade of water. Even when the sides appeared most firm, if the labourers suspended their work but for an hour, they found on their return that they had the greater part of it to do over again. This was particularly the case on the southern side of the paw, where the whole of the people were employed for seven days without making any sensible advance, the sand rolling down in one continual and regular torrent.'

The discoveries to which these operations led, may briefly be stated. On the stone platform in front, and centrally between the outstretched paws of the Sphinx, was found a large block of granite, fourteen feet high, seven broad, and two thick. The face of this stone, which fronted the east, was highly embellished with sculpture in bas-relief, the subject representing two Sphinxes seated on pedestals, and priests holding out offerings, beneath which was a long inscription in hieroglyphics most beautifully executed; and the whole design was covered at top, and protected as it were, with the sacred globe, the serpent, and the wings. Two other tablets of calcareous stone, similarly ornamented, were supposed, with that of granite, to have constituted part of a temple, by being placed one on each side of the latter and at right angles to it. One of them, in fact, was still remaining in its place; of the other, which was thrown down and broken, the fragments are now in the British Museum. A small lion couchant in front of this edifice had its eyes directed towards the Sphinx. There were besides several fragments of other lions rudely carved, and the fore part of a Sphinx, of tolerable workmanship, all of which, as well as the tablets, walls, and platform on which the little temple stood, were ornamented with red paint, a colour which would seem to have been here, as in India, appropriated to sacred purposes. In front of the temple was a granite altar, with one of the four 'horns' still retaining its place at the angle. From the effects of fire evident on the stone, this altar, it would seem, had been used for burnt-offerings. On the side of the paw of the great Sphinx were cut several indistinct inscriptions in Greek characters, addressed to different deities, one of which appeared to be a mere play upon words; another commencing with the usual phrase, (adoration), ended with the name of Aurora; and a third contained the name of one of the Egyptian mouths. On the second digit of the paw was sculptured in pretty deep characters an inscription in verse, of which the following is as exact a copy as could be taken.

[Here is a long Greek inscription with its restoration, given apparently in a wood engraving, or a block cast for the purpose, in the Review, which we have not the means of giving here, so that we have contented ourselves with the translation from its restored form.]

This inscription has been restored by Dr. Young, with his usual skill and judgment in clearing away the difficulties of imperfect inscriptions in ancient languages. The reader is also indebted to this gentleman for the translation here given of the inscription, which, thus happily restored, seems neither deficient in courtliness nor ingenuity.

Thy form stupendous here the gods have placed,
Sparing each spot of harvest-bearing land;
And with this mighty work of art have graced
A rocky isle, encumber'd once with sand;
And near the pyramids have bid thee stand:
Not that fierce Sphinx that Thebes crowlike laid waste,
But great Latona's servant, mild and bland;
Watching that prince beloved who fills the throne
Of Egypt's plains, and calls the Nile his own.
That heavenly monarch [who his foes defies],
Like Vulcan powerful [and like Pallas wise].

.....
ARRIAN.

The signature gives it a more than common interest, which will not be weakened, if it should be decided that it is to be ascribed to the celebrated historian whom Gibbon has dignified with the epithet of the 'elegant and philosophical Arrian.'

On the digits of the southern paw were only discovered a few of the usual dedicatory phrases in homage of Harpocrates, Mars, and Hermes. One inscription gives, as Mr. Salt reads it, to the Emperor Claudius, the extraordinary appellation of

αγαθος δαίμων,

an instance of flattery which can only be outdone by that of another inscription, lately discovered in Upper Egypt, where Caracalla is styled 'piissimus,' on the very same stone from which the name of his murdered brother Geta had, probably, been erased by his own orders. On another small edifice in front of the Sphinx was an inscription with the name of Septimius Severus, in which the name of Geta was erased, as in the former, and as it also is in the triumphal arch erected by the same emperor at Rome. The former inscription however is not to Claudius, but to his successor Nero, as may be distinctly traced in the first line through the imperfect erasure. Mr. Combe observes, that on some of the coins of this emperor, which were struck at Alexandria, he is flattered with the same title.

The inscription as far as can be made out from the stone now in the British Museum is as follows:—

(Under a winged globe.)

With good fortune.

Whereas the Emperor [Nero] Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, the Good Genius of the world, besides all other services which he has rendered to Egypt, taking the most especial care of its interests, has appointed us Tiberius Claudius Balbillus for a Prefect: and by his favours and benefits, abounding with all good things, Egypt has seen the gifts of the Nile increasing from year to year, and has now still more fully enjoyed the due ascent of the deity: it has seemed fit to the inhabitants of the village of Busiris in the Letopolitan district,.... living near the pyramids, and to the local scribes and village scribes among them, to pass a decree, and to erect a stone column..... to celebrate his divine virtues, engraved in the sacred character, by which it is customary to record them: for having been present at our lawful rites, and having worshipped the sun, the overseer and saviour of the world: and..... being excessively delighted with the... of the Py.....

The following inscription, found near the same spot as the preceding, is also in the British Museum. It appears to have been placed there in the reign of Antonia Pius and his son Verus.

With good fortune.

[In the sixth year] of Antoninus and Verus, the sovereign emperors, in the prefecture of Flavius of Titianus, Lucceius Ofellianus being commander in chief, and Theon general of the name; he rebuilt the walls for a good purpose.

Pachon XV. (May 11.)

The walls here alluded to were uncovered by Caviglia, and appear to have been intended to inclose the Sphinx. The edifices on which the inscriptions appeared were on two elevated platforms, on the outside of the altar, and directly in front of the animal, accessible by two flights of steps. The wall was of brick, but cased on the interior side with stone. Mr. Salt supposes that, from the commanding position of the two edifices above mentioned, they were intended as stations for the Roman emperors or the prefects to view the solemn rites performed in the temple and at the altar in front of the Sphinx.

The annexed sketch (see the Engraving) will convey to the reader the disposition of the ground, and the objects by which it was occupied, in front of the Sphinx and between its paws, in which

- A. Is the granite tablet, 14 feet high, 7 feet wide, and 2 feet thick.
- B. The side tablet, still standing.
- C. The tablet fallen, which has been sent to the British Museum.
- D. Two small Sphinxes, supposed to have stood in these places, fragments of them having been found near.
- E. Statue of a lion, of the best Egyptian sculpture.
- F. Two lions of ruder sculpture supposed to stand here, being found near the spot.
- G. The granite basement of an altar.
- H. The upper part of the altar.
- I. Top of the altar, bearing the marks of burnt sacrifices.
- K. The horns of the altar, one of which was found in its place.
- L. The first digit of the Sphinx's paw.
- M. The second.
- O. The pavement.
- PP. Parts of the two fore legs of the Sphinx.

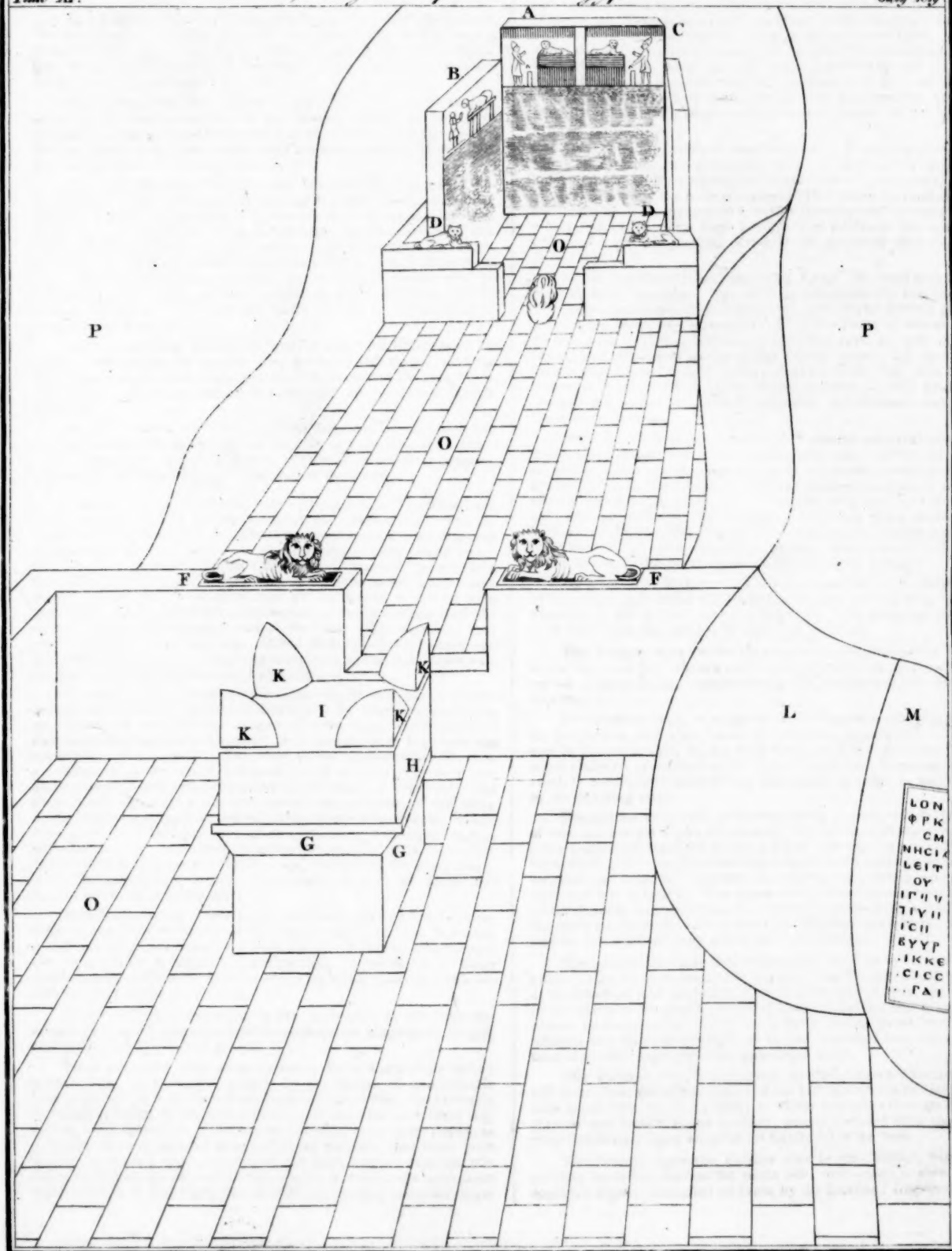
Of all the monuments of antiquity, the Sphinx is perhaps that which has most generally excited the admiration of the lovers of art, notwithstanding its mutilated condition. 'The contemplative turn of the eye,' (it is an artist who speaks,) 'the mild expression of the mouth, and the beautiful disposition of the drapery at the angle of the forehead, sufficiently attest the admirable skill of the artist in its execution. Yet there is no attention paid to those proportions we are accustomed to admire, nor does the pleasing impression which it produces result from any known rule adopted in its execution; it may rather be attributed to the unstudied simplicity in the conception of the breadth, yet high finish, of the several parts, and the stupendous magnitude of the whole.' Denon's description of this mysterious colossus is equally strong. 'L'expression de la tête est douce, gracieuse, et tranquille, caractère en est Africain; mais la bouche, dont les lèvres sont épaisses, a une mollesse dans le mouvement et une finesse d'exécution vraiment admirables; c'est de la chair et de la vie.'

Such are the sentiments which a repeated view of this colossal piece of sculpture is capable of inspiring into the minds of artists. 'I confess,' says Mr. Salt, 'that I felt, like many other travellers, that the praises lavished by Norden, Denon, and others, were greatly exaggerated: but the more I studied it at different hours of the day, and under different effects of light and shade, the more I became satisfied that they had barely done justice to its real merits. It must be allowed, however, that the drawings, by both the gentlemen above mentioned, but faintly accord with their encomiums, being two very wretched performances—but after having repeatedly attempted a likeness of it myself with little success, I am compelled to admit that the difficulties which attend the undertaking are sufficient to baffle any one not professionally dedicated to the arts.'

We have now taken a rapid view of the labours and discoveries of Mr. Caviglia. This enterprising man, after the most persevering exertions for ten months, in consequence of exposing himself too much to the sun, was unfortunately seized with an attack of ophthalmia, which compelled him to suspend his labours; and shortly after he returned to his ship at Alexandria. The expense incurred by all these operations, amounted to about 18,000 piastres, a share of which was contributed by Mr. Salt and two or three other gentlemen, who liberally engaged that the disposal of whatever might be discovered should be left wholly to Mr. Caviglia; and he, on his part generously requested that every thing might be sent to the British Museum, as a testimony of his attachment to that country, under the protection of whose flag he had for many years navigated the ocean. Mr. Salt very justly observes, that 'the unexampled circumstance that these operations were carried on by a single individual, attended occasionally only by one soldier, without the slightest molestation being offered, or unpleasant circumstance occurring, notwithstanding that numerous parties of idle soldiers went every day to inspect his labours, and thousands of Arabs during part of the time were encamped in the neighbourhood, presents the most unequivocal proof of the tranquillity now reigning in Egypt, and does honour at the same time to the liberality of Mahomed Ali Pasha, who, on this occasion, as on many others, exerted himself to facilitate the researches carried on by Europeans connected with science.'

Sketch of the Tablet found between the paws of the Great Sphinx in Egypt

July 1849



Engraved for the Calcutta Journal.



Himalaya Mountains.

In a Literary Number of our Journal for the 7th of March last, we presented our readers with two very interesting Letters from a young Traveller in the regions of the Himalaya, the first of which was dated from Subathoo, December 17, and the second from the same place, dated January 31, 1819.

The journey was undertaken it appears, from Letters accompanying the communication of the Journal, about the month of October, and terminated by a return to Subathoo about December; but the dates of the respective days are not specified, though they follow each other in regular order.

The last portion of the Journal left our Correspondent ascending the slope of the parent ridge of the Himalayah, until they reached a plain, whose height above the level of the sea, as measured by the barometer, was 13,500 feet. On the surface of this plain, vegetation was abundant, and the earth productive; and about a quarter of a mile from their path was seen the river Pubbur making its first exit from impenetrable obscurity, and flowing over an upright wall of shattered rock of six or seven hundred feet in height, forcing its way into the valley, where it is joined by a stream from the pass.

After a series of difficulties, amidst the wild beauties of the most grand and terrific scenery, they ascended still higher, with the vegetation progressively declining, until they reached the pass, where the Journal communicated in our Number for the 7th of March, broke off.

A Letter which we have received from our intelligent young Friend, dated from Subathoo, on the 11th of June, reached us only a few days ago, and furnishes a continuation of his interesting Narrative, which we hasten to lay before the world:

"We arrived at the pass at half past three P. M. The wind blew from the north, and as it swept up the vast surface of snow was extremely cold to our feelings. The thermometer stood at 40° a higher temperature than was looked for, considering the latitude and elevation at which we were; the snow had melted from off the southern face of the range, and disclosed the slope of the crest, upon which we pitched our tent, of no great size, yet including within its area part of the inferior boundary of snow that extended contiguous to the summit of the eastern peak or wall of the pass. We were only four yards from the ridge which was clothed with unfathomed snow and ice, descending in one sheet along a declivity which terminates with the Sutluj at the prodigious depth of 9,000 feet.

It is impossible to describe the scene of admiration and wonder that presents itself to the astonished eye of the traveller, who from so elevated a spot beholds ranges of mountains, confounded in shapeless irregularity, and raising their mural crests high into the circle of perpetual winter. The view to the northward baffles description, nor is the nearer prospect at all inferior; for here you stand encompassed with wreck and desolation on every side, and the straining eye, at last dim with the snowy splendour of the more distant landscape, finds no relief in the surrounding objects, which show no trace of industry, no vestige of animated existence, except a scanty growth of moss that studs the last remains of soil, and a few lichens that appear more elevated in the crevices of the rusty crags, while the last stage of organic life is recognized in the birds that have their dwelling in the snow.

Those monuments of primitive creation, though of iron texture, yield to the slow influence of destructive time, so that the most durable of the productions of nature are seen hurrying into decay; yet so gigantic, so solid, and so imposing, is the aspect of these mountains, that it is difficult to reconcile the mind to any idea of a period for their entire destruction.

The first object of attraction to the spectator, is the singular and extraordinary appearance of the peaks, their magnitude, height, and multiplied figures and forms.

There are some with spiry summits; these show their naked granite sides, shattered and warped by the action of interminable frost; a groupe of these rises from the bed of the Sutluj, and attain an elevation of about 20,000 feet, they rise pyramidally and shoot into spires, while thousands of feet are occupied in such steep slopes as to be unable to sustain the snow but in the hollows that have been formed in them. The portions of the bare surface consequently suffer most from the efforts of unceasing frost, which acts upon them in such a way as that when viewed with a glass they have the singu-

lar appearance of shelves or layers of banks heaped one upon the other.

Others form perfect cones; one of vast magnitude is seen north of the pass. The surfaces of these are so entirely incased, that they appear, not snowy mountains, but mountains of pure of snow. Then come the inclined planes, of astonishing grandeur, descending from the highest peaks, breaking off with a precipitous fall of many hundred feet, and backed upon their northern side by a mural face of great depth. Two of these remarkable appearances are seen amongst the declining slopes of the eastern range of the hills and even from the plains.

The obliquity of their position, while it exposes them to a heavy coat of snow, prevents their being divested of it by an avalanche, and at all seasons they exhibit the same appearance; but in May and June, till the commencement of the rains, they are open to the influence of a cloudless sky, with a thawing and freezing alternately, which encrusts their surface and produces the sparkling beauty of a glacier, forming certainly the grandest scenery of the Himalyah.

Of all the singular and imposing forms, the most magnificent are the table summits. One of these enormous masses rises near Wangtoo; its summit is perfectly level, and throws down a precipitous rugged front, which stretches out into a slope or bosom covered with snow. Upon its table surface is a vertical layer of great depth, and the line of union of this wall of snow with its craggy face is well defined and has a very strange effect. The base of this mountain sends forth a river, whose channel of solid granite is scooped and worn into cavities, recording the violence and turbulence of its stream.

Such are a few of those remarkable natural appearances which baffle all attempts at faithful description; and if within the range of vision, which is not extensive, such singularly striking objects arrest the eye, what may not be anticipated throughout a chain of such extent. A vertical wall of 3000 feet has in vain been searched for amongst the European Alps, yet here, where Nature astonishes by her unparalleled magnitude, she may present even something more wonderful, in the deep vallies which every where intersect the great ridges of this stupendous range.

By a series of Barometrical observations, the extreme altitude of the pass is not under 15,100 feet, a height, according to theory, abandoned by animal and vegetable life. The peaks or walls on each side shew the ravages of time and weather.

The eastern wall rises with a considerable inclination for five or six hundred feet; thence starting backwards, it terminates in a crown of snow perhaps one thousand five hundred or two thousand feet higher.

The western peak, or rather wall, is literally a pile of mouldering fragments, and rises to about five or six hundred feet; the ascent is impracticable, higher than thirty or forty feet, where are the usual emblems of adoration, so that a spectator, standing on the crest, is not forcibly attracted by the imposing figure or magnitude of the bending cliffs.

Beyond the west wall, is another break or pass, which the work of ruin has not yet made traversable; but so rapid is the decay that a few years must level the dividing ridge, and leave a grand breach. Its western side rises to a towering summit deeply clad in snow, and corresponds with the opposite or eastern one, being about two thousand feet in height. The space within these may exceed a mile. In the descent on either side, the cliffs recede, forming a dell; upon the north carrying the stream from the thawing snow to the Sutluj, and on the south sending a branch to the Pubbur.

The prospect towards that stream is banked up by an arm of the grand range, which is crossed by the pass. The Pubbur has its source at the junction, and washes its base in its primitive form, for ten or twelve miles to Jungleg'h, where it loses its peaked and disordered figure, exchanging its cap of snow for a coat of grass, and continuing a few miles at a height of twelve thousand feet, with a surface of partial vegetation and patches of snow.

The Pubbur, now strengthened by the numerous streams that roll down from the whole extent of the last mountains of Himalyah, runs south-west, to about thirty or thirty-five miles from its source, then at one bend flowing easterly, nearly parallel with the great chain, receiving many supplies, it finally joins the Jans.

The descent upon the Pubbur side is very abrupt, much exceeding in extent that on the north side, and seems to owe it to a southern aspect, ploughed and torn by the loosened fragments, and

its surface swept by rushing streams, which, descending abruptly from the snows, roll away the soil that can hardly be renewed.

A bright and even powerful sun in the day, thaws the snow that soaks into the crevices, and this freezing with the approach of night, bursts the rocks asunder with a tremendous noise. This is the season when the vast crashes happen, yet they are equally liable to occur in the spring, when the supporting ledge, already shattered, is borne down by the load of snow. From the bulk of some of the pieces now at the foot of the mountains, an idea may be formed of their destructive conflict when in full motion; some are detached with their supporting bed, and in their course carrying before them all that they meet in their way, bring down even whole fields, which settle in the soil of the first level in their way; others, more remotely displaced, and perhaps of greater magnitude, set off with a bound, and their superior velocity and impelling massiveness, as they strike against other rocks in their passage, instead of loosening them, only wedge them into greater firmness; so that, unincumbered, they keep on, till opposed by masses which are fixed in immovable security, when they are shattered into thousands of fragments; others again, meeting in their route with no obstacles, acquire an overwhelming impulse, which their length of passage increases, and these tear up the grassy slope and sweep before them every thing in their way.

The soil near the summit of the pass certainly cannot be generated; the scanty growth of inorganic life is insufficient to maintain a re production, as is the case along the slope near the base, where the exuberance of vegetation replenishes the waste, and produces noble trees of 30 and 36 feet circumference; and the rock of the Himalyah, even if decomposed, is quite unfavorable to vegetation.

For half a mile, the declivity upon the Pubbur side is amazingly steep, and then it softens into a plain, thickly studded with the hardest productions of the earth, yet it is not of a less elevation than 13 or 14,000 feet, which in Latitude 31° 23' is much above the line of perpetual frost, as laid down theoretically. This, and other observations more prominent, must considerably affect the foundation of the general principles of congelation.

Upon the northern declivity of the pass lies a vast unbroken sheet of snow, which never melts; it descends from the crest in a wall form, and is thence expanded over the whole of the valley for about a mile, where this astonishing mass reclines against the brow of the pass. The depth of snow must be great; the general quality of the rock of the pass and its surrounding peaks is gneiss and quartz, but it is difficult to ascertain the true substance, as all the pieces within reach are detached from above; no real granite was observed, so that we may conclude none exists upon the more lofty eminences that rise on each side.

The ridge of the pass according to the formula of congelation is 4,000 feet within that limit, yet this prodigious altitude is not abandoned by nature; tufts of moss and grass, with a light soil are seen all the way to the top, and even rise on each side to 2 and 300 feet, while higher up on the rugged cliffs that are doomed to sustain perpetual snow, animated nature finds a habitation, and ravens and small birds have their nests there.

On our arrival here we found it necessary, from the scanty supply of fire wood brought with us, to part with the best proportion of our attendants, who had just time left to reach the wooded valley. It would have been a fine task for a painter, to have sketched the physiognomy of our servants. Altho' the sun shone brightly, the wind chilled the temperature which was at 40°; the sudden transition was strongly experienced by them, and now the warmest hour of the day produced some thoughts of the rigour of approaching night. Those who had to remain, shewed miserable contortions, while the others who had the prospect of comfort below, forced into a better shape their spasmodic visages of despair.

As evening advanced, clouds gathered, which threw down a light shower of snow, and when these cleared away, they left a sky of deep azure. By sun set the thermometer had fallen to 32°; before it grew dark, we banked ourselves round with snow, and our proximity to it, (being inside) we thought extremely lucky. The tent was very crazy, and we were obliged to load it with snow to keep it from being blown away; a single bundle of wood had to last for the night, and part of next day, till fresh supplies arrived. People of all sorts and descriptions crowded into the tent, and added to the temperature; as we could not afford a blaze, we sat in a cloud of smoke, which the frosty wind forced into our eyes, and down our

throats, yet this, however disagreeable, was more adapted to our feelings than the biting air without.

The fire was a source of comfort to look at, for warmth was generated only by the exertion necessary to keep it alive. Spirits seemed really to have lost their strength, and had scarcely any effect in keeping us warm. Having to inhale the smokey atmosphere, we formed a circle around the fire, which only appeared at times, and then by the application of the blowpipe. The snow within the tent was very convenient for a supply of water, of which we ascertained the excellent qualities in punch. To avert in some degree the annoyance of the smoke, we used tobacco; but this too, like the spirits, fell short of its usual stimulating powers, and was only of some benefit when burning as fuel.

The wind blew in puffs and shook off the snow from our tent, so as to render it less stable. The only chair we had, served to support the barometer, and we sat upon the ground. We formed altogether a motley groupe, but such a scene was neither foreign to our experience or feelings, and was not without its interest. For a while, indeed, we might have forgotten our lofty situation, guarded by frowning peaks with their eternal winter, till the faint sound of a distant crash broke the silence, and the noise of nearer destruction pressed closely upon our thoughts, while the hard texture of our beds often acutely reminded us of our position, and obliged us to shift about for more accommodating rest, so that there was a perpetual stirring and agitation inside as well as out. A blink of the fire occasionally shewed us the self-arranged fragments that had perhaps once crowned the walls of the pass. The ground upon which we sat was encrusted with the ice, and thawing by the fire, gave to some uneasiness, and to others amusement.

Every thing had its time, and at length the scene changed into one more distressing than I can describe. An unpleasant sensation of drowsiness felt in the evening gradually increased after dusk, and by nine o'clock had almost overpowered any attempt to sit up. The whole party but myself lay asleep; the fire hardly threw a faint shadow, and the cold increased with the night. I had hoped for some relief from my head-ache by rest, but the deep pain and fulness about my temples became more violent, with a tightness across my eyes; and a reclining posture seemed to add to it. Towards midnight the pain grew insupportable, and occasioned loud sighs and groans. I can compare it to nothing less than what could arise from an iron hoop screwed to its last hold. It was a sensation unlike to any thing I ever before experienced. There was no affection of the breathing. At day light the acuteness of the pain passed into a confused numbness, and all the next day my head was like a burthen of lead. I in vain tried to trace it to the punch we had drank, I recollected Mr. Moorcroft's similar situation, and that I had felt it myself in a small degree at our preceding encampment at an elevation of 12,000 feet. I was aware of the rarefaction of the atmosphere, and of the poisonous plants said (but I believe erroneously) to be the cause of the tenacity of the air. Was this the sole cause, we should expect to find the effect more regularly present; the Goorknies and servants suffered slightly, the former were aware of the circumstance, but ascribed it to the influence of a plant that flourishes beneath the snow.

The temperature at sun-rise ranged from 22° to 27°, by 3 p. m. the thermometer had mounted to 40° and 43°; and by evening it had fallen to 32°. The sun did not appear to us till 8 a. m. and the temperature had not then risen above one degree.

Not expecting our route to lie out of the valley of the Sutlej, and in the hopes of expanding the view south, we resolved to climb up the slope of the eastern peak, which seemed to favor the attempt. Commencing with rock and soil mixed, the latter soon disappeared, and left unsupported, the jutting crags rent to their centre; blocks of quartz, and gneiss veined with quartz, lay loose. Passing these, we came to shelves of black horizontally disposed strata now leaning on each other for support. A dyke of these appeared so threatening as to destroy my resolution of proceeding, but the Goorknies mounted, and we followed, not however without reflection that we had no business there.

After ascending what appeared the most formidable bar to our advance, we held on, now meeting with the snow which lay in patches and yielded at first slightly to the foot; for a while we followed as much as possible the line of it, hoping in this manner to reach the hardened slope of the summit; but this deepening with the increasing altitude, we tried the nature of the tract beneath. We still kept on, sinking as we rose; all before us was jumble of points of rock, the space between being filled up with snow; which latterly became

a treacherous guide, giving way to our knees, and appalled us from proceeding. Yet I think the passage to the frozen summit might be effected with caution, and the prospect enlarged. A series of bearings taken from either of the peaks would be of vast importance towards fixing the relative positions of many principal points. We had risen about four hundred feet, and seemed level with the western wall of the pass, and had the rainy season terminated ten days earlier, we might have succeeded.

On the third day of our halt we resolved to see the source of the Pubbur, and with a barometer of unexceptionable accuracy and a good thermometer we descended to the emanating plain, crossed the streams that flowed from the pass in many gills prior to their union with the Pubbur, and ascending steep slopes wound along a grassy bank studded with rocks, and at last getting upon the ridge which encompassed the collected fountains of the river, were brought into the view of a beautiful lake, encircled with rock, sheeted with snow and ice, the effect produced was inexpressibly grand; it was a surface of ice coated with snow of a foot in depth, and contained the springs of the river which emerged from beneath an arched canopy of solid ice. The circumference exceeded a mile, and upon its southern and eastern sides, was bounded by rocks. In the centre of the lake was a chasm of perhaps twenty feet in depth. I looked down the gap of solid ice, and saw the springs of the streams which feed the Pubbur dripping from the mass I stood upon. I paced along the base of the rocks, which rise with an abrupt face, and shew a strangely packed mass, not of shattered but of wrinkled aspect, and resisting from their peculiar structure the decay of time and weather. The strata seemed vertical, and their wall sided form is continuous with the chain that limits the southern side of the valley of the Pubbur, and which is here united with the parent range, at the bend of the lake, and running down parallel with the stream preserves an elevation of between fifteen and sixteen thousand feet to near Jang'legh; the nature of the rock appears to be gneiss, granite, and quartz, and it has a most curious rusty aspect.

Above the mural portion which is of considerable height, the rocks slant towards the summit, and upon the slope lie banks of congealed snow and ice, having a perpendicular brow of packed appearance, so much resembling blocks of marble and quartz that I doubted for some time of their reality. No fragments of rock lay upon the ice, or within the circle, which argues that this structure crumbles at its surface, and is not fractured or split into shelves. Upon the expanse of it were ridges of pebbles and sand mixed, shaped into the figure of graves. The pebbles were of all varieties, not so much worn as these found upon a sea-shore, but singularly smooth: by what action is difficult to say, for no river falls over them. The sand was exactly the same as sea sand. Upon the ice grew a solitary violet surrounded by a tuft of earth, far from either bank; how it came there, and by what means it flourished, it would be difficult to say. It was the only living thing upon the ice, and truly might be said to be among the flowers that the Poet describes as

" — born to blush unseen,
" And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

At the exit of the stream, the barometer shewed 18-200. thermometer 40°, temperature of the water 36°, depth about four inches, breadth three feet, the arch very low, but affording room for the eye to trace the current to its inaccessible source. The under surface of the sheet of ice was thawing in the form of a shower of rain, and afforded from its extent the greater mass of the water. Above this there was about a hundred feet of vertical side, which barred all access. A second basin seemed to receive its waters from the frozen banks of snow, and sent down a stream which entered at the margin of the lake, or union of the rock, so that the original springs of the Pubbur and all the great rivers that flow from the snow may not inaptly be said to be on the highest peaks of the Himalyah.

The open or western edge of the lake is supported by a steep face of rock, seven or eight hundred feet, rising from the valley, which it closes; and almost immediately after the escape of the stream from its icy source, it is tumbled over the precipice. The cleft passage for its transit, is the work of the current. The Pubbur falls over a vertical wall of rock from hence, and meeting with sharp points and angles in its way, it is precipitated in a showery cascade to the valley, and after quitting the rock of its source for a sandy bed, receives the stream of the pass, and glides in union with it along the dell, in tortuous silvery brilliancy.

The northern bank of the lake is coated with soil, and was over-spread with many Alpine plants, some in flower, others running to seed; they enlivened the gloom of perpetual winter that hung over,

us, yet exhibited how transient was the season of summer at this altitude.

The route of our return was not without considerable difficulty and danger, frequently crossing the paths of avalanches, and of loose masses of rock. Some of the passages were extremely hazardous to get over, and the delay and caution necessary for our security brought to a nearer view the effect of those ponderous messengers of destruction. Notwithstanding we took what we conceived to be a road that would land us high upon the slope of the pass, we were brought to the grassy plain, and finding a flock of birds of novel appearance, we loitered amongst them, till sunset, without having a single shot.

In ascending to the tent, which we did not reach till dark, although the perpendicular height could not have exceeded 1,500 feet, I was quite exhausted. The oppression which interrupted respiration and affected me with giddiness, together with a general lassitude and sluggishness, obliged me to rest about twenty times. A slight headache and throbbing in the temples was also occasioned. These, and others symptoms far more decisive, which I shall hereafter mention, strengthen the supposition that the subtlety of the atmosphere at these altitudes is the direct cause which acts in different degrees on the human constitution, proportionally to the susceptibility of the individual subjected to it.

Errata in the former portions of the Journal printed March 7, 1819.

1st. For Lake Montulace, read Mantulace, i. e. Mansarovara, or Mapang, the source of the Sutluj.—See Moorecroft's Narrative.

2nd. At Rampoor, the capital of Bussahir, the breadth of the stream is two hundred and ten feet, not eighty, as inserted; and is called there the Satroodra or Sutluj, i. e. Sutledge, a corruption.

3rd. At Pool my highest point in 1817, the stream is eighty feet broad and not at Rampoor. The Sangho, and river called the Namptoo, (a strictly Chinese sound) and not Namptoa.

4th. Himaschal is right.—i. e. Himalyah.

5th. Nissung, not Missung.

6th. Latak i. e. Luddak, see Moorecroft, and not Latab.

7th. The Tons river, not Tanse, a feeder of the Jumna, or rather a branch, although three times the size.

8th. Jang'legh is the last village in the valley, not the best; and is also the most elevated; its situation so near the snowy chain will shew that it was intended the last instead of the best.

NOTE.—We remark upon this occasion, as a matter of great importance to those who wish their Communications to appear accurately, that if loose and indistinct writing be sent to us, the chances of errors in the most important particulars of it is very great. The context of the passage will in general help us to restore an illegible word, though this is a task of great labour;—but in names of places, and positions or heights of stations, there is no possible clue to guide us, or enable us to distinguish the true from the false. When it is considered that the printers into whose hands these manuscripts are placed, are unable to correct even an inaccuracy of grammar or orthography, and know nothing of geography or science, the difficulty which an Editor has to contend with, may be imagined.

The general routine of the manuscripts that reach our Office is this: They are first read over and revised as to language, punctuation, placing of capitals, division of paragraphs, &c. and the illegible words written over by plainer ones if the lines are sufficiently wide apart to admit of this. They then go into the Printing Office. The first proof that is printed often resembles Dutch as nearly as it does English, and it is common in compositions from manuscript copies, even after this prepared revision of them, to find one hundred errors in one page!! These are marked to be corrected, yet nothing is more frequent than for the second proof to appear with fifty errors in the same page, owing to the letters marked in the margin for one word being taken from or added to another, making that which was before right most ridiculously wrong, and leaving many of the blunders marked for alteration to stand as they originally were, so that three and sometimes four proofs are necessary before the sheet goes to press.

We beg to recommend, therefore, to those of our Friends who may occasionally honor our columns with their contributions, the eligibility of having their own Papers written out fairly by a native writer, in as large and distinct characters as possible, and if written only on one side of the sheet it will be a still further convenience; the writing should then undergo the Author's own revision, and this would ensure its appearing with accuracy when printed.

Moor's Sacred Melodies.

I.

THOU ART, OH GOD!

AIR—UNKNOWN. (1)

"The day is thine; the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun; thou hast set all the borders of the earth; thou hast made summer and winter." PSALM LXXIV. 16; 17.

Thou art, oh God! the life and light
Of all this wondrous world we see;
Its glow by day, its smile by night,
Are but reflections caught from thee.
Where'er we turn thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are Thine.
When Day, with farewell beam, delays
Among the opening clouds of Even,
And we can almost think we gaze
Thro' golden vistas into Heaven;
Those hues, that make the Sun's decline
So soft, so radiant, Lord! are Thine.
When Night, with wings of starry gloom,
O'er shadows all the earth and skies,
Like some dark beauteous bird, whose plume
Is sparkling with unnumber'd eyes;
That sacred gloom, those fires divine,
So grand, so countless, Lord! are Thine.
When youthful Spring around us breathes,
Thy spirit warms her fragrant sigh;
And every flower the Summer wreathes
Is born beneath that kindling eye.
Where'er we turn thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are Thine.

(1) I have heard that this Air is by the late Mrs. Sheridan. It is sung to the beautiful old words, "I do confess thou'rt smooth and fair."

II.

WHO IS THE MAID.

St. Jerome's Love.

AIR—BEETHOVEN.

Who is the maid, my spirit seeks,
Through cold reproof and slander's blight?
Has she Love's roses on her cheeks?
Is her's an eye of this world's light?
No, wan and sunk with midnight pray'r
Are the pale looks of her I love,
Or if, at times, a light be there,
Its beam is kindled from above.
I chose not her, my soul's elect,
From those who seek their maker's shrine
In gems and garlands proudly deck'd,
As if themselves were things divine!
No, Heav'n but faintly warms the breast
That beats beneath a broider'd veil;
And she, who comes in glittering vest
To mourn her frailty, still is frail.
Not so the faded form I prize
And love, because its bloom is gone;
The glory in those sainted eyes
Is all the grace her brow puts on.
And ne'er was beauty's dawn so bright,
So touching as that form's decay,
Which, like the altar's trembling blight,
In holy lustre wastes away!

These lines were suggested by a passage in St. Jerome's reply, to some calumnious remarks that had been circulated upon his intimacy with the Matron Paula.

III.

THIS WORLD IS ALL A FLEETING SHOW.

AIR—STEVENSON.

This world! all a fleeting show,
For man's illusion given;
The smiles of joy, the tears of woe,
Deceitful shine, deceitful flow,
There's nothing true but Heaven!
And false the light on Glory's plume,
As fading hues of Even,
And Love, and Hope, and Beauty's bloom,
Are blossoms gathered for the tomb,
There's nothing bright but Heaven!
Poor wanderers of a stormy day,
From wave to wave we're driven;
And Fancy's flash and Reason's ray
Serve but to light the troubled way,
There's nothing calm but Heaven!

IV.

FALL'N IS THY THRONE.

AIR—MARTINI.

Fall'n is thy throne, Oh Israel!
Silence is o'er thy plains;
Thy dwellings all lie desolate,
Thy children weep in chains.
Where are the dews that fed thee
On Etham's barren shore?
That fire from Heaven which led thee,
Now lights thy path no more.
Lord! thou didst love Jerusalem;
Once she was all thy own;
Her love thy fairest heritage, (2)
Her powers thy glory's throne. (3)
Till evil came, and blighted
Thy long-lov'd olive tree; (4)
And Salem's shrines were lighted
For other Gods than thee!
Then sunk the star of Solyma;
Then pass'd her glory's day,
Like heath that, in the wilderness, (5)
The wild wind whirled away,
Silent and waste her bowers,
Where once the mighty trod,
And sunk those guilty towers,
Where Baal reigned as God!
"Go" — said the Lord — "ye Conquerors!
Sleep in her blood your swords,
And rage to earth her battle-arts, (6)
For they are not the Lord's!
Till Zion's mournful daughter,
O'er kindred bones shall tread,
And Hinnom's vale of slaughter, (7)
Shall hide but half her deed!"

(2) "I have left mine heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hands of her enemies." Jeremiah XII. 7.

(3) "Do not disgrace the throne of thy glory." Jeremiah XIV. 21.

(4) "The Lord called thy name a green Olive Tree, fair and of goodly fruit, &c." Jeremiah XI. 16.

(5) "For he shall be like the heath in the desert." Jeremiah XVII. 6.

(6) "Take away her battlements; for they are not the Lord's." Jeremiah V. 10.

(7) "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they shall bury in Tophet till there be no place." Jeremiah VII. 32.

Printed at the Union Press, in Garstin's Buildings, near the Bankshall and the Exchange.